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ABSTRACT

This textbook survey is designed to aid junior high and high school social studies teachers in choosing texts which cover population topics adequately. Thirty social studies textbooks from all major publishers have been evaluated. The results are contained in matrices which show how each text ranks on its coverage of demographics and related issues. The chart format allows comparison of texts within the subject areas of World History, Geography, and Global Studies, and can help teachers pinpoint weak areas of their current texts so they know where supplemental materials are especially needed. Each text was evaluated for its coverage of level, definitions and concepts, population dynamics, social aspects of population growth, effects of population growth, population growth as a concern, population and the future, supplemental information, and length of coverage. A discussion of the top textbooks in each category explains why they deserve the rating. Survey authors conclude that global studies texts are the overall best source of population information available from social studies textbook publishers, that surprisingly few geography textbooks cover population thoroughly, and that generally, world history textbooks' coverage of population is not as detailed as either geography or global studies books. (LZ)

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ED 377 048

WHO'S COVERING POPULATION IN SOCIAL STUDIES?

A Survey of Secondary Social Studies Texts

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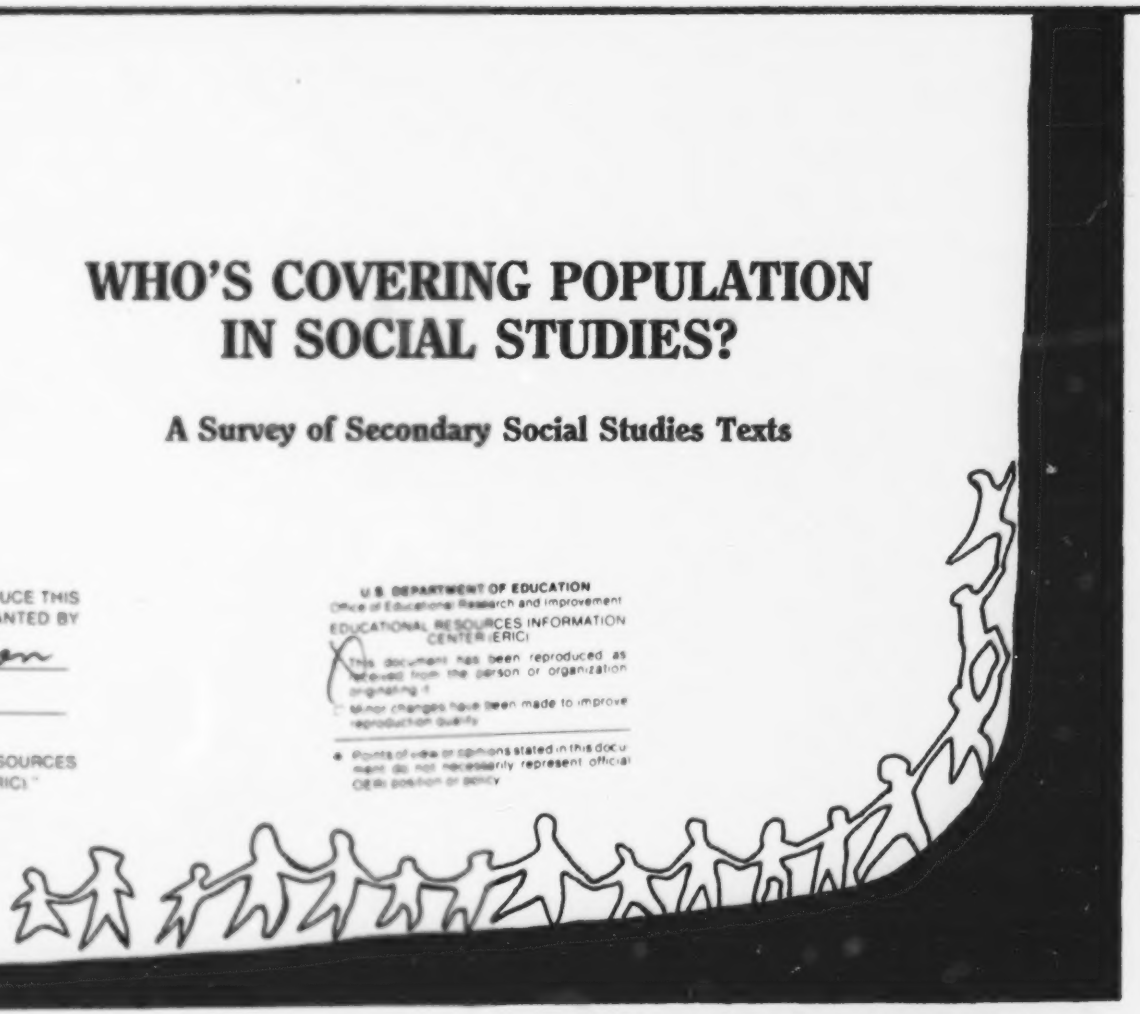

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PREFACE

Social studies, simply stated, is the study of people -- our history, cultures, thoughts, problems, daily events and our relationship to the world around us. The goal of any good social studies curriculum consists not of the remembrance of dates and trivia, but of the preparation of young generations to meet the challenges of their times with historical insight and present-day information.

Today's students inhabit a rapidly changing world which they share with 5.5 billion people. Within their lifetimes, they will likely have to share the planet's limited resources with 10 billion others, as they struggle to find solutions to mounting social problems and to restore a deteriorating environment. The changing social studies curriculum touches on some of these social and environmental issues -- poverty, hunger, unemployment, homelessness, air and water pollution, deforestation and climate change. All of these problems are connected to and exacerbated by population growth, an area often overlooked in the curriculum.

Population studies can not be ignored if we expect the next generation of voters, leaders and consumers to make critical decisions. The size and growth rates of populations in every part of the world will play a role in our continued quest for social equality, peaceful global relations and a healthy environment.

Of course, educators need to have the tools easily available to incorporate population studies into their curricula. While there are quality supplemental materials available for population education, we recognize that most social studies instruction is textbook-driven. Therefore, ZPG's Population Education Program has prepared this textbook survey to aid junior high and high school social studies teachers in choosing texts which cover population topics adequately.

Thirty social studies textbooks from all major publishers have been evaluated. From the matrices that follow, educators can see how each text ranks on its coverage of demographics and related issues. The chart format allows comparison of texts within each category and can help teachers pinpoint weak areas of their current texts so they know where supplemental materials are especially needed.

HOW THE BOOKS ARE RATED

We evaluated each text according to a list of topics which any detailed discussion of population should include, such as appropriate definitions and concepts, numerical information, social and environmental implications of population size and prospects for the future. The topics in this list are presented and described in more detail below. To further aid educators in comparing the texts, we have listed the books as they are ranked, with the most favorable texts appearing at the top.

The matrices provide a basis for teachers to evaluate books, but should not be the sole source of information.

The texts should also be examined individually, particularly for qualities which the matrix does not present. For example, a book may touch on almost all of the topics listed, but this coverage may be brief and lacking in depth. Or, a text may not cover all of the topics, but the ones it does include may be well explained and stress the importance of studying population issues. In selecting texts to recommend, we also considered the quality of discussion questions, the overall tone of population coverage, readability, design and the inclusion of thought-provoking student activities. All of these features of a text help enhance the information included. Those texts featured in our "Top Honors" section ranked highest in both quantitative and qualitative coverage of population topics.

A KEY TO THE MATRICES

Thirty junior high and high school textbooks in the subject areas of World History, Geography, and Global Studies were read and evaluated for this review. We surveyed each text for inclusion of population dynamics and related factors. The different areas in which the texts are ranked are described below.

LEVEL Both junior high and high school texts are included. We chose not to evaluate the junior high books on a separate scale because population issues can be explained to younger audiences in their own terms and still be substantive. The matrix is general enough that the level of writing will not affect evaluation, as can be seen in the case of the few junior high level books which top the charts. However, the majority of books for grades 7-8 lack essential population information, and this is also reflected in the matrix.

DEFINITIONS AND CONCEPTS While reading the texts, we noted any population-related terms or concepts that are used or explained such as birth rates, population growth rates, and doubling times.

POPULATION DYNAMICS This category includes the numbers to quantify the concepts defined. We looked for inclusion of worldwide and regional figures such as population size, density, settlement patterns and growth rates.

SOCIAL ASPECTS OF POPULATION GROWTH This category encompasses social characteristics of a population that may contribute to its growth. We looked for connections made between population growth and trends such as ***family*** size, the status of ***women***, ***religious*** beliefs about population growth and family planning, and ***cultural*** traditions that affect family size choices and attitudes toward birth control.

EFFECTS OF POPULATION GROWTH The subheadings in this section pertain to various facets of our lives and world that can be affected by unchecked population growth. ***Quality of life*** can be lowered through population pressures on a country's resources and services. A country's ***economy*** can be affected by overpopulation, which leads to unemployment, overstretched government program funds, and less economic "success" in the global community. There are many ***environmental*** manifestations of population pressures including pollution, resource allocation and use,

consumption, waste disposal, land use, and energy use to name but a few. Population growth can also negatively impact ***development***, thereby slowing industrialization and creating urban slums.

In addition, human ***health*** is jeopardized when rapid population growth contributes to overcrowded and unsanitary conditions on a local level. As populations increase exponentially, the need for increased ***food production*** to feed growing numbers of people may leave the soil damaged from overcultivation and/or may not be expanded at a fast enough rate to keep pace with population growth. ***Global*** issues such as migration, foreign aid and dependency, and the widening gap between rich and poor nations are also worsened by rapid population growth. Texts vary in their inclusion of these issues. The connections between rapid population growth and food production, hunger and food shortages are the only links consistently made.

POPULATION GROWTH AS A CONCERN Most texts which include population growth present it as mainly a concern of ***developing*** countries. However, as the matrix indicates, a few books make connections between the interests of ***industrialized*** nations and population growth, usually through the discussion of consumption patterns and waste disposal. Few mention population growth patterns in North America and how growth, combined with consumption habits, impacts on the global environment.

POPULATION AND THE FUTURE Texts which rate well in this section include ***projections and predictions*** using both numerical and qualitative ***scenarios,*** describing future living conditions, assuming population growth continues as it is today. Along with these somewhat gloomy forecasts, a good text includes options for measures that could be taken to avoid the projections. These "***solutions***" include education, family planning, health services, and reduction in resource consumption, among others.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION To rate books in this category, we looked at their inclusion of tables, maps, charts, and graphs to supplement population information. Most books contain at least a basic table comparing populations for the nations of the world. The use of the supplemental information, combined with an attractive layout and activities, strengthens many of the texts.

LENGTH OF COVERAGE For each text the matrix notes how many pages cover population, if any, and if regional/historical information is presented as well. Coverage varies according to the type of text, but in the best cases includes a chapter on population growth plus ***regional*** (in geography and global studies books) or ***historical*** (in world history books) information throughout the rest of the book. The few books that devote a whole chapter to population place it at the end where teachers might not have time to cover it. However, there are a few texts which cover population comprehensively.

HOW THEY DID AS A WHOLE

GLOBAL STUDIES

Global studies texts are, overall, the best sources of population information available from social studies textbook publishers. They generally include sections on population growth in each regional unit and also have an initial or final unit on global issues which incorporates population pressures. Because global studies books do not typically cover the United States and Canada, industrialized nations' connections to the problems of population growth are limited in most cases.

GEOGRAPHY

Surprisingly, few geography textbooks cover population thoroughly, even though they often include sections on human interaction with the environment. They are, however, some of the best sources for supplemental information such as population density maps, demographic tables, and comparative graphs. Typically, geography texts include regional information on population for major areas of the world and a final unit on current concerns, sometimes population.

WORLD HISTORY

Generally, world history textbooks' coverage of population is not as detailed as either geography or global studies books. However, most books do include some historical information on population trends, particularly during the Black Death and the Industrial Revolution. A smaller number have separate sections or chapters on contemporary population issues. Although it may seem that population studies are out of place in a world history text, most texts have a final unit on the world today. This unit is a suitable place to include current population in comparison to historical trends.

GLOBAL STUDIES

Each category of matrices reads from left to right across two consecutive pages

MATRIX KEY

RATING SCALE
••• = very thorough coverage/information
•• = adequate coverage/information
• = some coverage/information

LEVEL
HS = high school (grades 9-12)
JH = junior high (grades 7-8)

SOCIAL ASPECTS OF POPULATION GROWTH
FA = family size
WO = role of women
RE = religious beliefs
CU = cultural practices, traditions and beliefs

POPULATION GROWTH AS A CONCERN
DN = only for developing nations
IN = also for industrialized nations/ tied to consumption

AMOUNT OF COVERAGE/LENGTH
0 = no information
P = page--3 pages or less
S = section--more than 3 pages, less than 1 chapter
C = one chapter
R = regional information: geography and global studies
H = historical information: world history

						SOCIAL ASPECTS OF POPULATION GROWTH				POP GROWTH AS CONCERN			
Publisher	Title and Year	Authors	Level	def.	pop.	FA	WO	RE	CU	DN	IN	supp. info.	amt. cover
Merrill	Global Insights: People & Cultures (1987)	Hantula, Flickenna, et al.	HS	••	•••	••	•••	••	•••	•••		••	S, R
Glencoe	The Human Expression: World Regions & Cultures (1992)	Welty & Greenblatt	HS	•••	•••	••	••	•	•••	••		•	C, R
Prentice Hall	World Cultures: A Global Mosaic (1993)	Ahmad, Brodsky, et al.	HS	••	••	••		•	••	•••		••	P, R
Scott, Foresman & Co.	Our World: Yesterday & Today (1991)	Drummond & Kraig	JH	••	••					••		•	S, R
Allyn & Bacon Inc.	People Time & Change (1986)	Myers & Wilk	JH	•	•	•	••					•	P
HRW/HBJ •	The World Past and Present (1991)	Bacon	JH	•	••					•	•	••	R
D.C. Heath	Exploring Our World, Past and Present (1991)	Gritzner	JH	•	•					•		•	P, R

The matrix categories represent the topics which should be included in a comprehensive discussion of population growth issues. The letter codes in each category correspond to the headings at the top of the matrix. Texts are rated on a three star scale as to their coverage of each topic listed. A blank space denotes no coverage of the topic in the text.

GLOBAL STUDIES

			EFFECTS OF POPULATION GROWTH							POPULATION AND THE FUTURE		
Publisher	Title and Year	Authors	QL	EC	EN	DE	HE	FP	GL	PP	SC	SO
Merrill	Global Insights: People & Cultures (1987)	Hantula, Flickenna, et al.	••	•••	••	•	••	••	•••	••	••	•••
Glencoe	The Human Expression: World Regions & Cultures (1992)	Welty & Greenblatt	•	••	••	•••	•	•		•		•••
Prentice Hall	World Cultures: A Global Mosaic (1993)	Ahmad, Brodsky, et al.	•	••	•••	•••	•••	••	•	••		••
Scott, Foresman & Co.	Our World: Yesterday & Today (1991)	Drummond & Kraig		•	•		•	•		•		
Allyn & Bacon Inc.	People Time & Change (1986)	Myers & Wilk	•					•	•	•		
HRW/HBJ *	The World Past and Present (1991)	Bacon		•	•							•
D.C. Heath	Exploring Our World, Past and Present (1991)	Gritzner	••		•							•

* HRW/HBJ - Holt, Rinehart, Winston/Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich

MATRIX KEY

RATING SCALE
••• = very thorough coverage/information
•• = adequate coverage/information
• = some coverage/information

EFFECTS OF POPULATION GROWTH
QL = quality of life
EC = economics
EN = environment
DE = development
HE = health
FP = food production
GL = global issues

POPULATION AND THE FUTURE
PP = projections and predictions
SC = scenarios
SO = solutions

GEOGRAPHY

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						SOCIAL ASPECTS OF POPULATION GROWTH				POP GROWTH AS CONCERN			
Publisher	Title & Year	Authors	Level	def.	pop.	FA	WO	RE	CU	DN	IN	supp. info	amt. cover
Merrill	World Geography: People & Places (1989)	Armstrong & Hunkins	JH	***	***	**		**	**	**	*	**	C, R
Prentice Hall	World Geography (1992)	Baerwald & Fraser	JH	***	**		*		*	**	***	***	C, R
Glencoe	World Geography (1992)	Boehm & Swanson	HS	***	**	*			**	**		**	R
D.C. Heath	World Geography (1989)	Gritzner	HS	***	**				**	**	*	*	C, R
HRW/HBJ *	World Geography Today, Revised Edition (1992)	Sager, Helgren, et al.	HS	***	**					**	*	***	C, R
Silver, Burdett & Ginn	World Geography (1992)	Ainsley, Elbow, et al.	JH	*	**					**	*	**	R
McDougall, Littel & Co.	Earth's Geography & Environment (1991)	Mitsakos	JH	***	*					*	***	**	C, R
Houghton Mifflin Co.	Geography (1985)	Getis & Getis	JH	*	*			*	*		**	**	C, R
Scott, Foresman & Co.	People on Earth: A World Geography (1988)	Drummond & Drummond	JH	***	**					*	*	**	C, R
Scott, Foresman & Co.	World Geography: A Physical & Cultural Study (1989)	Blij, Danzer, et al.	HS	**	*	*			*		**	*	C, R
Globe	Exploring a Changing World (1993)	Schwartz & O'Connor	JH	*	*					*		*	R
Arnold	Geographic Themes & Challenges (1990)	Latimer	JH	*	*							*	P

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GEOGRAPHY

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Merrill	World Geography: People & Places (1989)	Armstrong & Hunkins	••	••	••	•	••	••	••	••		•••
Prentice Hall	World Geography (1992)	Baerwald & Fraser	•	•	•••	•	•	•	••	•		•
Glencoe	World Geography (1992)	Boehm & Swanson	••	•••	••	•		••		••		•
D.C. Heath	World Geography (1989)	Gritzner	••	••	•	••			•	•		•
HRW/HBJ *	World Geography Today, Revised Edition (1992)	Sager, Helgren, et al.	••	•••	•••	•		•		••	•	••
Silver, Burdett & Ginn	World Geography (1992)	Ainsley, Elbow, et al.		•	•••	••		••	•	•		••
McDougall, Littel & Co.	Earth's Geography & Environment (1991)	Mitsakos	•		•••	•	•	•	•	•		••
Houghton Mifflin & Co.	Geography (1985)	Getis & Getis	•	•	••	•	•	•	•	•		••
Scott, Foresman & Co.	People on Earth: A World Geography (1988)	Drummond & Drummond		•	•	••	•	•	•	•		
Scott, Foresman & Co.	World Geography: A Physical & Cultural Study (1989)	Blij, Danzer, et al.	•	•	•••		•	•	•			•
Globe	Exploring a Changing World (1993)	Schwartz & O'Connor		•••			••	••		•		
Arnold	Geographic Themes & Challenges (1990)	Latimer			•							

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						SOCIAL ASPECTS OF POPULATION GROWTH				POP GROWTH AS CONCERN			
Publisher	Title & Year	Authors	Level	def.	pop.	FA	WO	RE	CU	DN	IN	supp. info	aml. cover
D.C. Heath	World History: Perspectives on the Past (1992)	Krieger, Jantzen, et al.	JH	***	***		**			***	**	*	S, H
Glencoe	World History: The Human Experience (1992)	Farah & Karls	HS	***	**	**		**	**	**	**	*	S, H
Prentice Hall	World History: Patterns of Civilization (1990)	Beers	HS	**	**				*	**		**	S, H
Prentice Hall	Pageant of World History (1990)	Leinwald	HS	***	*				*	**	*	**	S, H
Houghton Mifflin Co.	History of the World (1992)	Perry, Scholl, et al.	HS	***	**					**		*	P, H
Scott, Foresman & Co.	History and Life (1990)	Wallbank, Schrier, et al.	HS		*			*	*	*	*	*	P, H
Addison-Wesley	World History: Traditions & New Directions (1991)	Stearns, Schwartz, et al.	HS	***	*					*		*	S, H
McDougall, Littell & Co.	Links Across Time & Place: A World History (1990)	Dunn, Abrahamse, et al.	HS	**	**					*		*	S, H
HRW\HBJ •	World History: People and Nations (1990)	Mazour & Peoples	HS	***	**					*			P, H
Merrill	Human Heritage: A World History (1989)	Greenblatt & Lemmo	JH	*	*					*		*	P, H
Silver, Burdett & Ginn	People in Time & Place: World Cultures (1991)	Lewis, McGrath, et al.	JH	*	*					*		*	P

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WORLD HISTORY

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D.C. Heath	World History: Perspectives on the Past (1992)	Krieger, Jantzen, et al.	••	••	••	•	••	•••	••	••		••
Glencoe	World History: The Human Experience (1992)	Farah & Karls	••	••	•••	•	••	••	•••	••		••
Prentice Hall	World History: Patterns of Civilization (1990)	Beers	••	••	••	•	•••	•		•		•
Prentice Hall	Pageant of World History (1990)	Leinwald	•	•	•	•		••	••			•
Houghton Mifflin Co.	History of the World (1992)	Perry, Scholl, et al.	•	•	••		••	•	••	•		
Scott, Foresman & Co.	History and Life (1990)	Wallbank, Schrier, et al.	•	•	•		•	••		•	••	•
Addison-Wesley	World History: Traditions & New Directions (1991)	Stearns, Schwartz, et al.	•			•		••		•		••
McDougall, Littell & Co.	Links Across Time & Place: A World History (1990)	Dunn, Abrahamse, et al.		•			•	•	•	•		
HRW/HBJ *	World History: People and Nations (1990)	Mazour & Peoples		••		•		•	•			
Merrill	Human Heritage: A World History (1989)	Greenblatt & Lemmo	••	•		••			•			
Silver, Burdett & Ginn	People in Time & Place: World Cultures (1991)	Lewis, McGrath et al.	•	•	•				•	•		•

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TOP HONORS

Global Studies

Merrill's *Global Insights: People and Cultures* by Hantula, Flickenna, et al., ranks the highest of all the social studies texts surveyed and in many ways should serve as a model for other publishers. In contrast to most texts, this book closely links population concerns to social problems, although it gives shorter shrift to environmental connections. Hantula ties population growth to economic decline, increasing foreign debt, insufficient food production, drought, overcrowding, and strained social services. The authors also stress actions that can be taken to ease these problems, such as increasing family planning services, changing attitudes towards women and promoting smaller family size. All of the information about population is given within the regional sections. Even so, the mention of population in so many areas leads the reader to a global perspective, even without a final chapter to tie it all together.

Also noteworthy is Glencoe's *The Human Expression: World Regions and Cultures* by Welty and Greenblatt. This text contains regional population data in each section, plus an entire chapter entitled "People and Food" which drives home the connection between population growth and food production better than any other text. Welty and Greenblatt describe the population explosion and offer suggestions for slowing growth. These include educating women, making contraceptives available, restructuring government spending, and providing social security. Obstacles to the solutions are mentioned, but not portrayed as insurmountable.

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Geography

Merrill also published the best geography book surveyed, *World Geography: People and Places* by Armstrong and Hunkins. It serves as a good example of how a junior high school text can cover population but still be easy to read and understand. The text starts with a unit on geography and global issues, including chapter 6, devoted entirely to population. Here, the authors explore population growth in reference to its importance as a world issue, successfully linking population and economics, food supply, and natural resources. The demographic transition theory is described in terms easily understood by junior high readers. By the end of chapter 6, Merrill's *World Geography* defines more population terms and concepts than any other book we reviewed.

This strong population coverage at the beginning does not continue for every region in the book, but population does resurface in some places. Particularly of note are some good discussion questions on population, an informative activity on population pyramids, and a useful activity connecting population trends to life expectancy in Eastern Africa. Overall, this text covers population adequately for a junior high level. Unfortunately, no other books of its level that we reviewed come close.

A second geography book that deserves mention is Prentice Hall's *World Geography* by Baerwald and Fraser. This text stands out above other texts in deftly linking population to environmental trends, development, health, consumption patterns, and many other global issues. In addition, Baerwald and Fraser present many population

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dilemmas in interesting and creative formats including special sections such as "Making Connections" and "Skills Checks," as well as in charts and graphs.

World History

Best in the group of world history texts are two books: *World History: Perspectives on the Past* by Krieger, Jantzen, et. al., from D.C. Heath, and *World History: The Human Experience* by Farah and Karls, published by Glencoe. D.C. Heath's *World History* is strongest on covering historical trends of population patterns. The section on the Middle Ages describes the demographic effects of the Black Death. Instead of discussing the negative effects of the population loss, as most texts do, D.C. Heath's links the smaller labor pool to reforms in the feudal system. At the end of this text is a section on the effects of population growth and our present consumption habits, along with some courses of action. While the authors neglect to mention family planning, they do stress the necessity to improve the education and status of women and to educate future leaders, points missed by many other books.

The Human Experience follows a recent trend of covering all of the world's history instead of putting most of the emphasis on Western traditions. At different points in the text, population growth is connected to difficulties with food supply, social services, water supply, desertification, and pollution. Farah and Karls skillfully discuss consumption patterns and ways in which population growth affects the lives of the readers, an area most books avoid. Ideas for what can be done about population growth are included in the global issues section at the end, accompanied by examples of population programs in China and India.

CONCLUSION

Population growth has shaped historical trends and will continue to affect the quality of life for present and future generations. In determining curricular priorities, secondary social studies educators should not overlook population studies, as they are so closely tied to many of the social, environmental and economic issues that steal the headlines. Unfortunately, most of the social studies textbooks on the market do not provide comprehensive coverage of population dynamics and how they relate to the rest of the social studies.

Those educators who do not have much influence on the textbook selection process must make an extra effort to encourage population awareness among their students. This can be done by supplementing the textbook with other activities and information. To ensure that texts evolve to meet the changing needs of social studies education, teachers and curriculum advisors should encourage textbook publishers to expand their population units in future editions.

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Zero Population Growth, Inc. is the nation's largest nonprofit membership organization working toward a sustainable balance of population, natural resources, and the environment in the U.S. and worldwide. ZPG's Population Education Program has provided quality population education training and teaching materials for educators since 1975. Training workshops are offered throughout the United States for teachers of grades K-12 and students of education. Teaching kits and shorter teaching units have also been developed for all grade levels.

For supplemental population teaching materials contact the groups below:

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